

# **OPENING STATEMENT AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY**



**Chairman Steve Chabot (R-OH)**

**House Committee on Small Business**

**Markup of H.R. 207 and H.R. 4783**

**As Prepared for Delivery**

**March 23, 2016**

Good morning. A quorum being present, I call this meeting of the Committee on Small Business to order. Small businesses are essential to the American economy, creating two of every three new jobs and spurring innovation. With this in mind, Congress tasked the Small Business Administration (SBA) with administering programs meant to foster entrepreneurial development and reduce barriers to entry. Over the past few months, this Committee has investigated the management challenges at SBA and learned about ways to improve SBA programs and operations across the board.

We have also heard from small businesses and SBA industry partners on ways to improve several SBA programs. As a result, today we will be marking up two bills: H.R. 4783, the *Commercializing on Small Business Innovation Act of 2016* that I introduced with Ranking Member Velázquez, and H.R. 207, the *Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2015*, which was introduced by Ranking Member Velázquez, but that together we have improved in the form of an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Both of these bills promote entrepreneurship in this country by ensuring that vital SBA programs are reauthorized and improved in a fiscally responsible manner.

As has become standard practice since my tenure as Chairman on this Committee, these bills today are bipartisan. I would like to thank the Ranking Member for her continued hard work for America's small businesses and her commitment to putting entrepreneurs first.

While we will briefly discuss each bill individually prior to marking them up, I want to emphasize the importance of moving forward on these common sense reforms to SBA's SBIR program and entrepreneurial development programs. When we improve these programs, we are stimulating the American economy by allowing our nation's job creators, small businesses, greater access to valuable resources.

I now recognize the Ranking Member, Ms. Velázquez, for her opening remarks.